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REDUCTION OF COMPULSORY SERVICE FOR TURKISH OFFICERS

At its 11 February session, the Grand National Assembly approved a bill reducing from 15 to 10 years the length of service incumbent on officers and military officials. The bill was introduced by Muzaffer Onal, Democrat deputy for Tokat.

The text of the bill follows:

Article 1

Regular officers and military officials may resign after completing 10 years of military service from the time of their commissioning. However, the following must be observed.

1. The acceptance of resignations of officers and military officials who, after having been commissioned, study or undergo training in foreign countries is contingent on their doing extra service equivalent to the period which elapsed between their departure for and return from such study or training if they paid their own expenses, or to twice this period if expenses were paid by the state.

2. The acceptance of resignations of officers and military officials who, after having been commissioned, study in our universities and higher schools is contingent on their doing extra service equivalent to the period they spent in these universities and higher schools.

Article 2

The periods of compulsory service for lycee graduates sent to foreign countries for study shall begin on the date that other lycee graduates of the same year finish the Military Academy and are commissioned.

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In order for these persons to acquire the right to resign, it is necessary that, in addition to the 10 years of compulsory service, they serve twice the length of time which elapsed between the dates of departure for and return from such study.

Article 3

The resignations of military school students are contingent on the [re] payment of all school expenses which have been borne by the state. However, after their retirement rights have begun, their resignations will not be accepted, even though they pay all school expenses.

Article 4

The resignations of those who have completed their compulsory service shall be accepted immediately by the ministry, without waiting for a decree, and demobilization shall not be delayed unless there is an urgent reason.

Article 5

In emergencies and in time of war, the processing of resignations of officers and military officials may, by a cabinet decree, be postponed until the end of the emergency or war.

The provision of the above paragraph shall also be applicable in the case of resignations of warrant officers and company officers [i.e., a special category of career noncommissioned officers.]

Article 6

Provisional Article 83 of Law 5434 is hereby repealed.

Article 7

This law is valid as of the day of its publication.

Article 8

The Council of Ministers shall administer this law.

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